reluctant to draw power from gas based NTPC units;

(b) if so, what is the impact on NTPC; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to over come this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) Of the three gas turbine units commissioned so far by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), two units are under trial operation. The generation at the power stations of the NTPC is regulated by the Regional Electricity Boards who coordinate the overall operations of the regional power grids.

Optimum utilisation of limited resources in Andhra Pradesh

35. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is adopting "Optimum utilisation of Limited resources" principle in power generation;

(b) If so, what steps are taken to exploit the gas and coal resources in Andhra Pradesh for power generation; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The national Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are executing the Ramagundam Super Thermal Power project (ultimate capacity 2100MW) in Andhra Pradesh based on supply of coal from the Singareni collieries. The Corporation have been advised to prepare a Feasibility Report in respect of a gas-based power project near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh for exploiting the gas available in the Krishna-Godavari basin.

Removal of subsidies on pesticides

36. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have clamped 105 per cent Customs duty on 3 pesticides as reported in the Economic Times of 7th March, 1989 and if so, what are the details thereof and rationale behind this;

(b) whether this is in accordance with a general call for phasing out of pesticides and removal of various subsidies on pesticides given by recent National 2-day Core-Group meeting of Scientists and Consumer Groups held at New Delhi; and

(c) whether Government will phase out pesticides in due course and invest heavily on safe alternatives to pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) The custom duty on 3 pesticides viz Monocrtophos, Methyl Parathion and Butachlor was raised to 105%. The rationale behind this increase is the indigenous availability position of these pesticides and to discourage unnecessary imports.

(b) and (c) Phasing out of pesticides is considered by the Registration Committee set up under the Insecticides Act in the Ministry of Agriculture. The above three pesticides have not been identified for being phased out. The duty increase has no relationship with the question of phasing out of these or any other pesticides.

National Council for Cement and Building Materials

37. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council for Cement and Building Materials is a public financed institution and

if so, what is the nature of the control exercised by Government on it; and

(b) what are the reasons that for the past so many years the Director General, Dr. H.V. Visvesvaraya, is simultaneously holding the position of the Chairman (an elective office valid for one year) of the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB) is a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. Contributions from the industry form the major source for its revenues. It is also entitled to receive Grant-in-aid from Government to meet expenditure of capital nature on specific schemes approved by the Government. Then, there are fees received by it for sponsored projects, training programmes, etc.

(b) The present Director-General has been functioning also as Chairman of the society by virtue of an enabling provision in its Rules.

Operations of KVIC in North-East region

38. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Khadi and Village Industries Commission is going to improve its operations in the North-East region by providing better infrastructural facilities; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In the North-East region KVI activities are being implemented through 5 State Khadi & Village Industries Boards, 46 Registered institutions and cooperatives assisted directly by KVIC. Govt. is laying stress on improving the infrastructural facilities for the development of Khadi and Village Industries activities in the North-East region. Continuous efforts are being made to improve the infrastructual facilities by opening new sub-offices, improving the training facilities in different industrial disciplines. opening up departmental units, extending liberalised pattern of assistance wherein 75% financial assistance is given as grant and 25% as loan for purchase of tools and equipments and machinery and 50% for building and worksheds in these regions.

KVIC has provided Rs. 231·19 lakhs during 1985-86, Rs. 229·62 lakhs during 1986-87 and Rs. 362·09 lakhs during 1987-88 for the improvement of KVI activities in North-East regions.

Shortage of LPG Cylinders

39. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that shortage of LPG cylinders in the country is causing great hardship to the consumers;

(b) if so, whether this shortage is a primary factor for deterioration in the customer service;

(c) whether Government are aware that this has given rise to many malpractices; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The